



11 June 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of our Marymede Community,

Return of Our Years 3-10 Students

Last Tuesday we welcomed back our Years 3-10 students and it was wonderful to see them so happy to be connecting with their friends and teachers.

We are aware that some students have been feeling a little anxious this week given that they have been home for so long. Our staff have been working closely with those students to support them as they transition back into school life.

Thank you to all of our parents for your continued support and understanding throughout this period of home learning and changing school expectations.

Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat

Last Saturday was the feast day of St. Marcellin Champagnat – founder of the Marist Brothers order. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Marcellin's significant contribution to Catholic education and the values expressed by Marcellin of humility, simplicity, modesty, and love of work and hope they are as valuable to our students today as ever.

Dropping Off & Picking Up of Students

I have been a regular presence both before and after school at the Primary school carpark over the past three weeks. I take this opportunity to thank our staff on carpark duty for the way they have kept the traffic moving and ensured the safety of your children. Thank you to our parents for your patience and support as we adapt to the new Government regulations required of schools.

2021 Prep Enrolments

Last Friday, letters were posted home offering a place at Marymede in 2021 for Prep families. It is reassuring that even

in the uncertain times we are living in at present that so many families want to be a part of the Marymede Catholic College Community. I ask that parents please return the acceptance form as soon as possible to help the College finalise our Prep offers for next year.

School Uniform

I appreciate that the cold mornings we have recently been experiencing have proved to be very challenging as we all endeavour to keep warm. I have noticed that a handful of our students have started wearing beanies to and from school. Beanies have never been part of the school uniform and I encourage students to wear the College scarf and the College cap to keep warm. I thank parents for your support of our uniform expectations.

Staff Professional Development Day: 26 June

The last day of school this term is Thursday 25 June, as the staff will be involved in a Professional Development Day on the Friday. Classes resume in Term 3 on Monday 13 July. I will provide information in the next Newsletter on staffing changes for Term 3 and the possible reintroduction of College activities next term, subject to our Premier Daniel Andrews' announcement in the coming week.

RIP +

Year 3 student of Marymede, Sofia Pastrana-Martinez, left this world peacefully at home on Sunday 7 June surrounded by the love of her family. She lived with cancer for quite some time, was happy and comfortable and lived her life fully and joyfully.

*Eternal rest grant to her O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.*

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Parking and Safety Around Schools

The City of Whittlesea have received some complaints about ‘inappropriate behaviour’ by motorists and pedestrians around schools since the 26 May return of students. We ask all parents and guardians to please read the attached flyer provided by the City of Whittlesea and to discuss road safety with your children as well.

At Marymede, we have opened additional parking at 75 Williamsons Rd and urge parents to please use this parking to assist in keeping the roads safe for traffic and for our students (see the ‘Return of Yr 3-10 FAQ 2020June03’ below for a map).

Update On the ‘New Normal’

It was wonderful last Tuesday to return to a great sense of normalcy on-campus as we welcomed back our Year 3 – 10 students. While our students are back and certain restrictions across the state are slowly easing, under the continuing advice of the Chief Health Officer, parents and community members are advised that entry and exit points to the campus continue to be limited as a further measure for protecting the health of our staff and students. This is likely to continue until at least the end of Term 2.

For updated details on the ‘new normal’ of life at Marymede, please refer to the ‘Return of Yr 3-10 FAQ 2020June03’ letter (originally emailed to all parents and guardians on Wednesday 3 June), as this includes details of staggered arrival & departure timings and the answers to many more questions.

All parent access to the campus remains restricted and all parent involvement with activities on-campus is cancelled for the foreseeable future. While the drop-off / pick-up zones will be open for limited times via Gates B, E & F, parents may not park on-campus nor exit their vehicle. We are grateful for the cooperation thus far of our P-2 and Year 11-12 parents and guardians and look forward to this continuing with our Year 3-10 parents and guardians.

Similarly, while parents may also walk their child(ren) to the student pedestrian access gates (as noted below) you must farewell your child outside the gate: only students may enter the property.

- pedestrian entry 1 (Gate B – Primary School)
- pedestrian entry 2 (near Gate C / Finance – Primary School)
- pedestrian entry 3 (south / left of Admin – Bus stop)
- pedestrian entry 5 (Gate D / chapel)
- pedestrian entry 6 (Gym / Gate E)
- pedestrian entry 7 (Gate G)
- pipetrack gate (behind House 7)



Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Farewell Home Learning

It has been a wonderful week having welcomed back the remainder of our students in Years 3-10. With all our students back on campus now we can bid farewell to home learning. During this term there have been over 120,000 likes, 14,000 family visits and 60,000 comments on student work on Seesaw. On SIMON, our secondary learning platform, there were over 10,000 calendar lesson entries and over 100,000 pieces of student work uploaded. Zoom and Microsoft Teams enabled students to receive explicit teacher instruction and stay connected with their teachers and peers. The statistics further confirm that there was an extraordinary amount of work undertaken by our teachers and students during this time. I would like to thank our parents and guardians for your support of our home learning program. We know how challenging this has been, but the strength of our community has enabled the continuity of learning for our students.

Learning Walk

I enjoy taking every opportunity I can to get into the classroom and having a chance to meet more students and seeing our fantastic teachers at work. With our P-2 students back on campus last week and now more settled back into routine I had a chance to wander around their houses. The preps were busily working on new words and mastering the letter L, whilst the Year 1 students were using graphic organisers to display their learning about Meerkats.



It wasn't just our students on-campus that were seen busily working: the collaboration between our teachers in preparation for the remainder of our student's return to school this week was seen too.



I'm looking forward to further learning walks across all year levels during the remainder of this term and beyond.

7-12 Update

There are 2 new procedures and features on SIMON that will assist us in ensuring students are maintaining a strong work ethic and commitment to their studies. The first process is related to incomplete class tasks. Teachers set class tasks to track student learning throughout a unit of work. Where a task is not submitted by the due date an overdue letter will be generated and sent to parents. The second process relates to reportable assessment tasks. Where a student result on an assessment task is below their expected ability a letter will be generated on PAM and an automated email sent to parents to alert them of the new PAM letter. Please ensure the email address linked to your PAM account is accurate and checked regularly. These two new letters will help to keep you informed of your child's progress and continue to strengthen the teacher-student-parent partnership.

Whilst there are no mid-year examinations for students in Year 9-11, the VCE Unit 3 trial examinations will be occurring between Monday 13 July – Wednesday 15 July. Students have been emailed the timetable, classes will be cancelled during this time and students are only required to attend when they have a scheduled examination. In the absence of examinations for students in Year 9-11 we will continue to monitor student learning progress in their assessment tasks and any students identified as at-risk in their learning will be required to attend a conversation to discuss strategies to further support learning in Semester 2.

Mrs Jessica Hall

Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

DIRECTOR OF FAITH AND MISSION

End of Reconciliation Week – Smoking Ceremony

The smoking ceremony took place at the flags in Wurrun Common to remind us of our connection with each other after having been apart. Uncle Ian told us a lot about the Wurundjeri community and how they traditionally lit a fire. He then rubbed two sticks together to start the fire and transferred to some stringy bark which comes from a gumtree. The smoke started to appear and it smelt very strong. Then, one by one, all four of us read a little prayer. After we went walking around Wurrun Common with the smoke and fire in Ian's hands.

-Valeria, Tadiwa, Oliver, Jack and Harkirat.



Vinnies Winter Appeal and 'Camp out at Home'

Faith and Mission Captains and Year 12's have launched the Vinnies Winter Appeal. We are hoping for cash / coin donations which children can bring into their class and be collected by the class teacher. This will replace our usual collection of donated goods.

To raise awareness and empathy for those who are homeless, on **Friday 19 June** we are encouraging a '**Camp out at Home**'. Participation is open to the following students and families:

- Year 4 – 6 Family (Parent and Child; Older sibling with younger Sibling)
- Year 7 – 9 Minimum of 2 people 'Camping Out'
- Year 10 – 12 May be independent; encourage another to join in.
- Staff

The program will look something like this:

Preparation:

- Workshop on Homelessness conducted in the Chapel during period 5 on Friday 19 June. Participants capped at 50. How best can you replicate the experience of sleeping rough?
- Students source large cardboard boxes prior to 19/6 for collection from the Chapel to sleep on.

Activities at home:

- Prepare home-made soup and sandwiches for dinner (reflect on what Vinnies Soup Van provides) – water / wraps / hot drinks.
- Make your 'Camp out' Bed: Could be on a patio / veranda / in a tent. Cardboard mattress, sleeping bag, blankets, wearing the clothes you are going to sleep in, beanie.
- Low access to technology (No screens): what will you play / talk-about? Do you have a radio to listen to a Footy Game? Card games, singing, reading.
- Be sure to take photos or a short video clip of your experience.

Debrief: Ms Wake and the Faith and Mission Captains will run a Zoom at 9.00am on Saturday 20 June with participants for 30 minutes.

We will call for registrations via Caremonkey.

Mass of the Sacred Heart – Tuesday 23 June

We will be live streaming this beautiful Mass with Fr Martin from our College Chapel of the Annunciation into classrooms across the College. Classroom teachers will assist students to participate and our Student Leaders will be present for the Mass itself in the Chapel. This will be a closed celebration. We

hope to announce the funds raised by the Community for the Winter Appeal.

STUDENT LIFE

Student Wellbeing Children and Grief to want to

When a child is grieving it is natural to want to support them. Yet, we often feel very uncertain about how best to do so. Perhaps you feel uncomfortable about discussing loss and grief, worried whether your child's behaviour is normal and unsure what you can do to help.

Please see the 'Seasons for Growth' information below for ideas to support your child. Children express grief in unique and personal ways and they may move in and out of grief, alternating between grieving and more playful behaviour. It is important to remember that grief is a normal and natural response and that there is no right or wrong way to grieve.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's core teacher, tutor teacher, relevant Director of Students, House Leader or the College Counselling Services.

Narelle.Collins@marymede.vic.edu.au
Melinda.Muir@marymede.vic.edu.au
David.Brick@marymede.vic.edu.au
counselling@marymede.vic.edu.au

Ms Lisa Murray
Student Wellbeing P-6

Instrumental Music Semester 2 2020

A reminder that new enrolments for Instrumental Music Semester 2 2020 close on Monday 15 June. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument either privately or in a pair please contact Performing Arts Assistant Ellen Lane at ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au by Monday 15 June for an information sheet and enrolment procedure. Please note there is currently a wait list for some instruments as teachers may be at capacity with numbers.

Sessional Dance Semester 2 2020

A further reminder that new enrolments for Sessional Dance Semester 2 2020 close on Friday 26 June. If your child is in Yr.5-12 this year and interested in developing their dance talents please contact Performing Arts Assistant Ellen Lane ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au by Friday 26 June for an information sheet and enrolment procedure. Those students already enrolled in Sessional Dance in Semester 1 who no longer wish to continue please submit this request in writing to Ellen Lane by no later than Friday 26 June, otherwise the College assumes students will be participating under the same agreement for a full year and the next full semester fees will be payable. The information sheet outlining costs, terms and conditions can be accessed for those already enrolled via CareMonkey for reference.

Ms Ellen Lane
Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Assistant

Co-Curriculum @ Home Wraps Up

The Home Learning program across the first eight weeks of Term 2 provided a challenge for the college's thriving co-curricular program.

Fortunately, we were able to diversify, with the 'Co-Curricular @ Home' program proving popular with students across Prep – Year 12 who tried new skills, exercised their talents and beat boredom! The program finished with a bang, with the 'Marymede Scavenger Adventure' seeing many students embracing the challenge to win house points. Congratulations to the 12B VCAL Class for their work organising this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to announcing the winning Houses soon.

At this stage, as we prioritise the transition back to on-campus learning, only a limited number of co-curricular programs are running on campus. Please stay tuned for updates as they come.

Ms Angie Bedford
Cultural Co-Curricular Coordinator P-12

Student Absentee Housekeeping

When your child is going to be absent from school, is arriving late or leaving early, parents/guardians are reminded of the following process:

- Ring the absentee line on 9407 9090 and leave a clear voicemail with your child's full name, year level and House, together with the reason for the absence. Parents/guardians can also send an email to absentees@marymede.vic.edu.au with your child's name, date of absence and the reason for the absence. If you are having difficulties leaving a message on the absentee line and can't email, please contact Main Reception on 9407 9000.
- If your child is going to be late for school, please re-iterate to your child that they **must sign in**. Secondary Students sign in at Founders Building Reception and Primary Students at the Finance Office.
- If your child is leaving school early, parents/guardians are to write a note and your child will be required to obtain an early leave pass from their Tutor Teacher or House Coordinator. Students **must sign out** when leaving early and present the early leave pass to Mrs Priest or Mrs Easdon for recording purposes.

Please note that communication of your child's absence/late arrival **must be received no later than 9.30am** on the day of the absence/late arrival. ***If you do not communicate your child's absence/late arrival by 9.30am and your child does not sign in upon late arrival you will receive an SMS message advising that your child is absent and requesting you to call the school to confirm the absence/late arrival.***

Mrs Mandy Sloan
Student Attendance Officer

COMMUNITY MASS

